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People Profile: Brian Clark

Editor

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State University examined how patrons preserve digital content. Six participants were asked to find an eBook related to their field of study. They were then asked to save a portion of the book, as if they were doing research for a paper. Of the six participants, three users stated that they would perform a copy/paste as their first option. Two other participants suggested they would try to email the pertinent section — a feature that is not an option in **netLibrary**. (They came to this decision based upon the use of library databases that do allow users to email content to themselves.) Only two out of the six suggested that they would print the passage, but this was not their preferred choice (Englund, 2001). Nor, apparently, is it **netLibrary's**. Their current interface offers printing tips, but it is buried in the "reading tips" index, where you may also read a copyright warning about attempting to print the entire eBook.

ALA's eBook Task Force created a long list of functions that are believed to enhance readability and understanding and to make an eBook's content richer than a paper book. These functions include the ability to search both within the current text and other eBook texts; hyperlinks to items in the book, such as a table of contents, as well as related research; sufficient mark up and structure to provide a sense of content involving chapters or sections; and a sense of place that lets the reader know how far along he or she is in the book (Gibbons, 2003).

Both **Books 24X7** and **netLibrary** offer the option of being able to search within the current text or other eBook content. Both vendors also offer a way to virtually turn the page with a click of the mouse. However, only **Books 24X7** offers a progression bar to give the reader a sense of how far along he or she is in the book. With the ability to create your own folders, bookmarks, notes, even email the current page, **Books 24X7** offers the reader more functionality than **netLibrary**. **Books 24X7** calls it "a more user defined experience," but that experience also has a higher learning curve (Ouellette, 2004).

Technical considerations aside, is there a market for eBooks? If we are to believe the recent sales figures, then eBooks are here to stay. The **Open eBook Forum** reports that eBook retailers had modest gains in growth during the second quarter of 2004 with a five percent increase in eBook units sold and a 23 percent in-

against the grain people profile

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BORN & LIVED: Born in Buffalo, New York, lived in Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Buffalo (again), West Virginia, Iowa, Buffalo (again), Florida, Indiana, and (finally) Illinois.

EARLY LIFE: My father was a chemist who got transferred a lot, then I became a journalist and continued the tradition.

FAMILY: Married to a wonderful lady (special education teacher) and have one 16 year old son.

EDUCATION: B.A. (Theatre and Film). Master of Library Science. Master of Information Science.

FIRST JOB: Copy Cataloger.

PROFESSIONAL CAREER AND ACTIVITIES: I have presented research on eBooks at the 2nd International Conference on the Future of the Book in Beijing, China (2004) and at the LITA national forum in Houston, Texas (2002). I presented on Streaming Media at the Endeavor International Users Group Meeting in Chicago, Illinois (2003), the LITA national forum in St. Louis, Missouri (2004), the Illinois Association of College and Research Libraries in Chicago, Illinois (2004), and the Endeavor Great Lakes User Group Meeting in Terre Haute, Indiana (2002).

IN MY SPARE TIME I LIKE TO: Officiate high school football and participate in community theater.

FAVORITE BOOKS: Whatever book I am currently reading.

PET PEEVES/WHAT MAKES ME MAD: Meetings that don't start on time.

PHILOSOPHY: Everything comes to he who waits, as long as he who waits works like hell while he waits!

MOST MEANINGFUL CAREER ACHIEVEMENT: Presenting at the 2nd International Conference on the Future of the Book in Beijing, China.

GOAL I HOPE TO ACHIEVE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW: To be living and working in the same place I am today. As a journalist I never stayed in one place very long. That's why I'm no longer a journalist.

HOW/WHERE DO I SEE THE INDUSTRY IN FIVE YEARS: I think we will continue to see more and more electronic sources and less and less paper sources. I don't believe the electronic book is quite ready for prime time except as a reference tool. I think people will continue to read paper books for leisure but in academia almost everything will be electronic.

crease in eBook revenues over the same quarter in 2003 (Bogarty, 2004). The consultancy firm **Accenture** predicts that eBooks will make up ten percent of all book sales by 2005, totalling 2.3 billion (Dorner, 2003).

So, who's buying, and does saleability equate to readability? **Lynch** sees "anecdotal evidence that younger people, who have grown up with text on display screens from childhood, are more

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already has a **North American Library Board** and a **European Library Board** is being set up currently. **CABI Publishing**, working under the umbrella of **CAB International**, is a leading international, not-for-profit, publisher of books, journals, databases, CD-ROMs and on-line information products in the applied life sciences.
www.cabi-publishing.org

Not just the energetic **David Goodman** <dgoodman@liu.edu>, but LOTS of other

Charleston Conference regulars are among the article authors of a **Special Serials Review Issue on Open Access** (v.30, n 4). A must read! The issue is available at: <http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/journal/00987913>.

The wonderful **Emily McElroy** <emcelroy@darkwing.uoregon.edu> sends information about the **Timberline Institute**, upcoming in May. **Timberline Lodge** is one hour east of Portland, Oregon, on the slope of Mount Hood. The conference will be held May 14-17, 2005. The registration form is available at <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/events/aitl/register.pdf>. Conference information is available at <http://libweb.uoregon.edu/events/aitl/>.

This is a great issue of **ATG** on eBooks and is compiled and edited by **Cris Ferguson** <cris.ferguson@furman.edu>, **Betty Kelly** and **Julie Carter** of **Furman University Libraries**. Despite sickness and holidays, it came together as a fabulous issue. Thanks to these wonderful women for putting it together!

We are already getting ideas for the **2005 Charleston Conference program**. Please send them to me as soon as you can so that we can start putting the program together. Also, what do y'all think of the theme this year of "**Things Are Seldom What They Seem**"? This is from

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